



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
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ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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Oil Spill India 2014
International Conference & Exhibition
18-20 September 2014, Holiday Inn Resort, Goa



International news

WITH MILLIONS OF TONS OF PLASTIC IN OCEANS, MORE SCIENTISTS STUDYING IMPACT



Picture: Fishermen set out amid floating garbage off the shore of Manila Bay in the Philippines on June 8, 2013. Photograph by Erik De Castro, Reuters

June 13 - Consider this: The amount of global trash is expected to rise every year for the rest of the century. With no intervention, the growing garbage heap won't even peak by 2021.

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International news (continued)

Since most marine debris originates on land, that grim prognosis, say researchers at the University of Georgia, could spell disaster for the oceans, creating an environmental hazard often compared in scope with climate change.

"We estimate we're going to have millions of tons of plastic going into the ocean with, so far, unknown consequences," says [Jenna Jambeck](#), an environmental engineer at the university, who is among a group of scientists pursuing a new phase of research on ocean trash and measuring its impact on the environment and marine life. The University of Georgia group works as part of the University of California at Santa Barbara's [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](#).

From an article by Laura Parker in *National Geographic* [Read more](#)

CLEAN UP OF SPILLS IN THE BALTIC SEA PRACTICED IN INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE



June 12 - Seventeen oil response vessels from eight Baltic Sea coastal countries and institutions participated in HELCOM's international response exercise 'Balex Delta 2014' yesterday in Ventspils, Latvia. The annual exercise, carried out 25

years in a row, is of vital importance to keep up and improve skills on joint prevention of major damage from oil spills in the sea as well as on the shore of the HELCOM Contracting Parties, consisting of all the nine coastal Baltic States and the EU.

The participating vessels, divided into four teams under the lead of the superior on scene commander Lt Sg Nauris Lakševics on-board the Latvian vessel "Varonis", exercised laying out booms, operational formations, communication and other operational tasks at sea off the town of Ventspils. At the same time an exercise on the shore took place to rehearse response in a situation when the oil has reached the shore.

The operations were carried out in mild wind and wave conditions but visibility was at times limited due to dense fog in the area. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden contributed to the exercise this year along with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) representing the European Union.

The exercise scenario stated that the collision between tanker and fishing boat had occurred in the Baltic Sea, northwards Ventspils port. Due to this accident about 10,000 tons of oil was spilt in the sea causing an environmental disaster.

The scenario also states that ships won't be able to collect all oil and some of it will wash ashore, thus participants of the exercise will be forced to test the oil spill readiness along the coastline, including saving the birds. *HELCOM* [Read more](#)

ITOPF FILMS HAVE WORLD PREMIERE IN SINGAPORE

June 12 - Captain M Segar, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), opened the evening by welcoming the attendees at ITOPF's world premiere of the Shoreline Clean-up and Oil Spill Compensation films. He set the context of the importance of international collaboration in minimising the impact of marine oil spills.

As a major hub port along a busy waterway, with some 130,000 vessel arrivals per year, Singapore has a significant interest in protecting the marine environment and promoting the sustainable growth of the maritime industry, so there was no better setting for the first showing of two of the films in ITOPF's award-winning film series "Response to Marine Oil Spills".



Capt. Segar said “MPA has a long-standing relationship with ITOPF, spanning over 20 years. Strong international cooperation helps us to draw and apply the lessons learnt from the global incidents, thus preventing a repeat of such incidents. It is only through our collective effort that we can continue to promote the sustainable growth of the industry. On this note, I applaud ITOPF for finding creative means, such as this film series, to reach out to a wider audience, and promote good practice and raise awareness of the issues involved in oil spill response.”

The presenter-led documentaries have been produced by an award-winning UK production company. They incorporate footage shot on location at oil spills worldwide since 2007, combined with interviews and archive film from the major incidents of the last 45 years.

The first three films in the 7 part series which were released at the start of May scooped all three top prizes at the International Oil Spill Conference Film Festival in the USA.

“Throughout the film series we have worked with our partners in the Global Oil Spill Response Community to generate key messages which are applicable throughout the world” said Dr Tim Lunel, Support & Development Director at ITOPF. “This is reflected in Singapore with the fantastic support given by Capt. Segar, Capt. Daknash, Ms Shirley Tan and their teams at the MPA for this launch event. OSRL with its base in Singapore also played an important role in the earlier films in the series so we were pleased that they were able to join the broad network of organisations at this enjoyable evening in the historic Arts House in the heart of Singapore.”

“It was important for ITOPF with its worldwide remit to conclude the launch of its film series in Asia” said Alex Hunt, project manager for the film series and also team leader for ITOPF’s Asia Pacific technical team. “With the increasing trade volumes in waters such as the Malacca Straits we have a real focus for working on preparedness as well as response in the region. So when these films are available on DVD with subtitles in Chinese and Korean as well as English, French, Spanish and Arabic at the end of the month we are hoping that our key partners across the Asia-Pacific region will find them a useful resource for their training and communication initiatives” he concluded. *ITOPF Press Release*

Incident reports from around the world

AUSTRALIA: LEAK FEARS: AVOCA DIESEL SPILL CONCERN

June 7 - NEW South Wales Roads and Maritime Services- (RMS) has investigated an alleged fuel- leak at the site of the sunken historic paddle boat Avoca.

Reader Steve Bloomfield sent Sunraysia Daily a series of photos of the 137-year-old vessel in the Murray River at Mildura on Thursday afternoon. “Images taken today show Avoca beginning to lose oil or fuel, like residue, into the river,” Mr Bloomfield said. “So far the safety booms are currently containing it on the surface, but who knows how much is leaking under the water- line.” *Sunraysia* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

THAILAND: BMA CONTAINING OIL SPILL IN CHAO PHRAYA RIVER

June 7 - Bangkok City Hall officials worked on Friday to contain the oil spilled onto the Chao Phraya River by a capsized fishing boat in Khlong San district.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration’s hazardous material emergency response team was observed trying to contain the spread of the spilled diesel fuel at Khlong San Pier, with the oil slick having covered a radius of about 40 meters from the capsized boat. *NNT* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: NEARLY 700 BARRELS OF CRUDE SPILL AT NORTH DAKOTA OIL WELL SITE

June 7 - The North Dakota [Department of Health](#) said Saturday that about 690 barrels of crude oil spilled from an underground pipeline at an oil gathering site near New Town.

The spill, discovered Friday afternoon at a well site about 14 miles northeast of New Town, came from a pipeline owned by Wyoming-based [Bridger Pipeline](#). *Seattle PI* [Read more](#) June 9 – [Related report in UPI.com](#) includes news of a second spill in North Dakota

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

CZECH REPUBLIC: NITRIC ACID LEAKS FROM PLANT IN CZECH TOWN

June 8 - East Bohemian town is hit by two chemical leaks; area's population asked not to go outside - Nitric acid leaked from the premises of the Penta firm located on the outskirts of the small town of Chrudim, 130 km east of Prague, twice Saturday, the regional firefighters have written on their website.

The second leak was more serious, but the firefighters sprinkled the yellow cloud of nitric acid and prevented it from escaping the firm's premises. *Prague Post* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: PICTOU COUNTY TRAIN DERAILMENT CLEANUP BEGINS



Photo: Six cars — two carrying butane and four carrying propane — remain strewn along the tracks on Lansdowne Road after a train derailment in Pictou County on Monday. (CBC)

June 10 - Five families in West River Station have been told it will be at least five days before they're allowed back in their homes as the cleanup of the latest train derailment in Pictou County began Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the company that owns the derailed train said it doesn't know what caused it to come off the tracks. Denis Boucher, a spokesman for the owners of the Cape Breton

and Central Nova Scotia Railway, said an investigation is underway into what caused several cars carrying a mix of propane and butane to derail on Monday. *CBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

AUSTRALIA: MYSTERY PORT RIVER DIESEL SPILL SPARKS FEARS FOR LOCAL DOLPHIN POPULATION

Photo: Whale and Conservation Society member Marianna Boorman is concerned about the health of dolphins in the Port River after an oil spill. Source: News Limited

June 11 - Dolphin volunteers reported seeing resident dolphin Unhap swimming through a diesel slick last Thursday (June 5).

The cause of the spill, estimated by volunteers to contain about 170 litres of fuel, is being investigated by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Long-time volunteer Marianna Boorman saw Unhap swimming through the diesel and said it was not the first time oil or diesel had been found in the water. *Herald Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



GHANA: FAIR ARTEMIS CAPTAIN MAKES CONTACT AFTER HIJACKING

[Following up on report in last week's newsletter] June 12 - An oil tanker missing for a week off the coast of West Africa was attacked by pirates who stole its cargo, the company that managed the ship said on Thursday after speaking with its captain.

The Liberia-flagged MT Fair Artemis had last made contact with its manager, Fairdeal Group SA, on June 4 when it was off the coast of Ghana. "The ship was boarded by a number of pirates who have stolen the cargo and other items on the vessel," Fairdeal fleet director John Gray said in a statement, adding that all on board were safe. The statement gave no further details. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#) Related report in [gCaptain](#)

MALAYSIA: ANOTHER TANKER ROBBED OFF MALAYSIA



Photo: Suspected pirates assemble on the deck of a dhow near waters off of western Malaysia, January 2006.

June 12 - A tanker heading to Labuan from Singapore was robbed of its petroleum cargo by six pirates last Saturday, in the latest of what has become a growing menace of fuel robberies in the region.

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said the incident happened around 11.30 p.m., when the Malaysian vessel MT Budi Mesra Dua was 78 nautical miles off the Tanjung Batu Bintulu coast, Malaysia. *Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

[Editor: HSE concerns aren't a high priority with tanker hi-jackers. How long will it be before this kind of incident results in many deaths and a serious pollution event?]

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

MALDIVES: VIETNAMESE SHIP RUNS AGROUND, CAUSES OIL SPILL

June 12 - Oil has spilled into the sea from a cargo ship that had run aground in a lagoon not too far away from Summer Island Village resort in Kaafu atoll.

Reliable sources have confirmed to Haveeru that a Vietnamese cargo ship had run aground in a lagoon off the northern end of Summer Island resort some four days ago. Although the ship has now been salvaged by the Coastguard, oil has been spilled in to the sea. However, the nature of the cargo aboard the ship, its destination and the amount of oil that has been spilled has not been found yet. *Haveeru Online* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

June 9 - U.S. Supreme Court refuses, for now, to stop BP oil spill payments

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined a request from BP to block payments to businesses while the oil giant appeals its [2010 Gulf of Mexico disaster](#) settlement. For the time being, the decision upholds the ruling by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that under terms of the settlement, businesses claiming damages from the undersea eruption need not prove direct harm.

BP is now asking the Supreme Court to review the ruling itself. The company sought to have payments to businesses put on hold while it pursues that appeal. The Supreme Court declined without comment. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

June 9 - Duke Energy Agrees to Fund Dan River Cleanup

Environmental officials in North Carolina and Virginia signed an agreement with Duke Energy on Monday for the cleanup of toxic coal ash from the Dan River, which flows through the two states.

The agreement requires Duke to pay any reasonable cost associated with the Feb. 2 spill at its power plant near Eden, N.C., which coated 70 miles of the river in gray sludge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is also a party to the deal. Duke signed a similar agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency last month. *International New York Times* [Read more](#)
[Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

June 10 - Removal of toxic muck from Passaic River in Lyndhurst a 'pilot project' for massive clean-up



Crews have finished removing just over 16,000 cubic yards of highly toxic sediment from a six-acre mudflat along the Passaic River, an early step in a multi-year federal cleanup spanning from Garfield down to Newark Bay.

The \$20 million project, near Riverside County Park in Lyndhurst, is just a small part of what officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expect to be one of the largest federal Superfund projects in history.

The 17-mile stretch of the Passaic contains layers of sediment contaminated with mercury, PCBs and cancer-causing dioxin, a byproduct of the Agent Orange manufactured by the Diamond Alkali Co. plant in Newark during the 1960s. *NJ.com* [Read more](#)

June 10 – US gives BP first license to fly drone over land

Cautious US aviation regulators announced Tuesday they have given oil company BP the first commercial license to fly a drone aircraft over land.

The Federal Aviation Administration gave BP and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) builder AeroVironment permission to use a drone for surveys of oil exploration and pipeline areas in Alaska's Prudhoe Bay area.

The surveys began on Sunday, using AeroVironment's hand-launched, camera-equipped, four and a half foot (1.4 meter) long Puma AE aircraft. *Space Daily* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (continued)

June 10 - Odyssey back in Gulf detailing oil impact on whales

The crew of international scientists and activists from Ocean Alliance, a whale research group founded by world-renowned Dr. Roger Payne, and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society will visit Pensacola again this month on their fifth oil spill research trip in the Gulf of Mexico.

Spokeswoman Lisa Agabian said the crew will be providing tours of the RV Odyssey, Ocean Alliance's 93-foot sailboat, when they pull into port. Dates are expected to be announced soon. *Pensacola News Journal* [Read more](#)

June 11 - 'Suspicious device' explodes at Arizona power plant

A makeshift [bomb exploded at a Nogales, Ariz., power plant](#) Wednesday, rupturing a large fuel tank and prompting the FBI and federal bomb experts to respond.

Local officials were alerted at 9:30 a.m. to a call of "suspicious activity" at the UniSource Energy Services Valencia Plant. An explosion had ruptured a diesel storage tank and caused what Nogales police Lt. Carlos Jimenez described as a relatively small spill that was confined to the immediate area. *USA Today* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 12 - Oil companies lobby to diminish spill cleanup fund

The Western States Petroleum Assn. and the California Chamber of Commerce led business groups in sending out an "alert" to lawmakers about a budget proposal that would provide oil-spill protection for lakes and rivers.

Gov. Jerry Brown's \$107-billion state budget calls for a program to prevent and clean up crude oil from pipeline and rail-car spills, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The oil spill cleanup program is a \$6.7 million expansion of a more-than-two-decades-old coastal oil spill program designed to protect inland bodies of water. *LA Biz* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA

June 2 - Euthanization or rehab for oiled wildlife?

The image of an oil-soaked mammal struggling to stay alive has always pulled at the public's heartstrings around the world after devastating oil spills.

But should Canadian governments, industry and wildlife management groups take the "tough" decision and recognize that valiant efforts to save — rather than euthanize — these creatures isn't always the best use of limited resources during a crisis? That was the touchy question raised by the Western Canada Marine Response Corp., the federal government-sanctioned but industry-funded organization responsible for West Coast spill cleanups, in a submission last year to the federal government's tanker safety panel. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas and SAC News]

June 8 - Federal plan for B.C. oil spill relies on using banned chemicals

The federal government's backup plan in the event of a catastrophic oil spill in British Columbia's waters relies on using chemical dispersants that are currently banned from marine use by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

B.C. Environment Minister Mary Polak says her province is not prepared to sign off on the federal oil-tanker safety plan rolled out last month as part of an effort to address concerns about marine environmental safety in advance of Ottawa's Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline decision. *The Globe & Mail* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

June 12 - Canada can only wait for Obama's Keystone decision, says minister

There is little the Canadian government can do at this point to influence U.S. President Barack Obama's final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, Conservative Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford said Wednesday from New York.

In an interview, Rickford echoed the comments of Prime Minister Stephen Harper that TransCanada's proposed line to ship bitumen from northern Alberta to the United States Gulf Coast is a "no-brainer." *Calgary Herald* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA (continued)

June 13 - If Keystone gets nixed, Canadian pipeline operators have a Plan B: Olive

It might be that the U.S. environmentalists' long campaign against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is about to backfire. Canadian pipeline operators are poised to implement an all-Canadian Plan B network of pipelines in place of the ill-fated Keystone XL that was to run the length of the U.S. heartland to the Texas Gulf Coast.

With the hearty good wishes of an Alberta heavy-oil industry desperate to see a return on its multibillion-dollar investment, Calgary-based pipeline operators already have their Plan B underway. No fewer than four heavy-oil pipeline projects on Canadian soil are under construction or shovel-ready, pending almost certain approval by a pipeline-friendly Alberta and Ottawa. *The Star.com*
[Read more](#)

UK: NEW KIT TO TACKLE OIL SPILLS TESTED

June 12 - New equipment to clean up oil spills in the UK will operate five times faster than previous responses, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) said.

The kit moves more easily through the water because of its streamlined shape. It was developed following the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and tested in Belfast Harbour on Wednesday.

Gail Robertson, the MCA's counter-pollution resource manager, said: "The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has a thorough response procedure in place to deal with many different types of emergencies at sea that cause pollution or threatens to cause pollution.

"Demonstrations like the one in Belfast Harbour today show how our equipment is fit for purpose." The Agency recently purchased two new pieces of Norwegian-made equipment known as NOFI Current Buster 6. *Belfast Telegraph* [Read more](#) Related report in [Afloat Magazine](#)

FINLAND: WWF: RAAHE OIL SPILL WORSE THAN EXPECTED



Photo: A volunteer from the environmental NGO WWF helps with the arduous cleanup operation. Image: Joonas Fritze / WWF

June 6 - The environmental organisation WWF says last Friday's oil spill in Raahe, northwest Finland is worse than originally estimated. Volunteers will continue their cleanup efforts in the islands near the mainland for as long as another week. On Tuesday volunteers focused their recovery efforts on the island of Selkämatala, an important marine nesting ground.

"This is a critical location. There's some oil on the beach and many birds are here," said WWF field coordinator Teemu Niinimäki. He described the operation as taxing but rewarding. *Yle.fi* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

INDIA: NIO PILOT STUDY ESI MAPS 7 TALUKAS FOR OIL SPILL VULNERABILITY

June 13 - A pilot study by the national institute of oceanography (NIO) has found that the environmental sensitivity index (ESI) can serve as a road map to combat an oil spill and the consequent formation of tar balls.

ESI is a colour-coded map that shows a shoreline's vulnerability to an oil spill. The study by NIO scientists Mani Murali R and Rohan Kumar mapped seven talukas, starting with the capital city's, and found that the Tiswadi coastline, with its heavy concentration of mangroves, is the most vulnerable.

Speaking at a general training programme on 'oil spill awareness' at NIO, Dona Paula, on Thursday, Mani Murali R said the shorelines were ranked on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being maximum vulnerability and 1 being least. *The Times of India*
[Read more](#)

PERU: OIL WORKS THREATEN HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN PERUVIAN AMAZON

June 13 - The Peruvian Amazon includes some of the most isolated forested regions on the planet, and is home to several uncontacted tribes. It is also the site of widespread contamination from oil spills.

Demonstrations and lawsuits by indigenous peoples in the last decade have exposed the failure of oil companies to clean up their Amazonian spills. But only a handful of studies have offered any data on contamination levels. The latest such study may well be the most comprehensive to date, covering 30 years between 1983 and 2013, and 18 different dumping sites on three watersheds. *New Scientist* [Read more](#) Related report in [LiveScience](#)

CUBA: RUSSIA PLUNGES INTO CUBAN OIL EXPLORATION

Russia has agreed to plunge into the search for oil in deep waters between the shores of Cuba and Florida, renewing fears of a major oil spill and the potential for environmental disaster.

With President Vladimir Putin looking on, Russian companies Rosneft and Zarubezhneft signed an energy agreement with Cuba late last month to explore offshore oil deposits. The agreement also calls for Rosneft to build a base at the Cuban port of Mariel to relay equipment and personnel to offshore rigs, linked by pipelines and a helicopter pad. *Sun Sentinel* [Read more](#)

ISCO news

REMINDER: FORUM ON GROUP V (NON-BUOYANT) OILS – UPDATED CALL FOR PAPERS

Emerging Concerns: The International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Oils

9-10 September 2014 Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority Building
130 Atwater, Detroit, MI 48226

The International Spill Control Organization, Sponsors and Management and Program Committee have issued an industry-wide call for participation. The Forum covers the following general aspects of the Group V (Non-buoyant) Oil issues:

Program Objectives and Outline - This Forum intends to explore multiple aspects of spill response for Group V classified oils, emerging production of oils such as Bitumen and Dilbit with the potential for sinking, and other heavy oils known to sink.

The platform and presentations are structured to facilitate better understanding between the various parties making up the response community so that each discipline can ascertain from others the importance of how they intersect in relation to regulatory issues, scientific issues, production and transport, spill preparedness, spill management and spill response.

Track One: Regulatory Rulemaking Updates

- A. OSRO Classification and Group V Oils
- B. Response Plans and Group V Oils
- C. OPA 90 - New Trends in Transport - Rail and Pipeline Issues

Track Two: Fate and Behavior of Group V Non-Buoyant Sinking Oils

- A. Properties of Group V Oil and Submerged Oil Releases
- B. Emerging Issues of Potential Sinking Oil: Oil Sands, Dilbit and Bitumen
- B. Explore the different environments at risk

Track Three: Storage and Transport issues (maritime, pipelines, rail and trucking)

- A. Trends in Transport: Rail and Pipeline
- B. Risk Mitigation and Spill Response Planning
- C. Industry Safeguards
- D. Community Information Programs

Track Four: Detection and Surveillance of Non-Buoyant Sinking Oils

- A. Submerged Oil Detection Techniques
- B. Existing and Emerging Technologies and Practices

Track Five: Group V Response Preparedness

- A. Group V Oils and Response Planning on the Regional and Local Level (Area Contingency Plans)
- B. International Agreements and Cooperation
- C. Interagency Issues

ISCO news (continued)

Track Six: Group V Non-Buoyant Sinking Oil Spill Response:

- A. Spill Management
- B. Response Strategies and Counter-Measures
- C. Submerged Oil Containment Techniques
- D. Recovery Methodologies for Submerged Oils
- E. Equipment and Materials Available for Group V Sinking Oil Response
- F. Case Studies

All submissions should:

- Be objective and include practical and impartial information.
- Identify primary and contributing authors.
- Indicate the topic or focus most appropriate for the presentation.
- Submit to : forumdetroit3@gmail.com

The new Abstract Submission due date is **June 30, 2014**. You will receive email confirmation when your submission has been received. Speakers will receive notification as to acceptance or non-acceptance as soon as possible after submitted papers have been received and assessed by the committee. Thank you for your interest in participating in the Forum.

Obituary

JAY HOLCOMB, 1951-2014



June 11 - Today we were saddened to learn that Jay Holcomb, dedicated wildlife rehabilitator and pioneer in the field of oiled wildlife response, died yesterday at the age of 63 after a serious illness.

Jay was unique among oiled wildlife responders, inspiring countless people across the globe with his personality, knowledge, and painstaking efforts to develop the best possible methodologies to save animals.

His outstanding leadership capabilities were highlighted in a number of international oil spill incidents where large numbers of wildlife were affected. The largest event in which Jay's skills made a difference was the Treasure incident in South Africa, in 2000, in which the South African penguin population was critically threatened.

As part of an International Fund for Animal Welfare and International Bird Rescue emergency team, Jay

led and oversaw the joint activities of numerous organisations and experts from many countries in setting up and managing a large temporary facility where some 20,000 penguins were cleaned and rehabilitated.

Not having all the answers himself, but leading and encouraging groups of people who collectively had the potential, skills and knowledge to make the critical difference was what made Jay a truly unique and unforgettable person.

During his illness, caused by a combination of cancer and heart problems, he kept a personal blog to inform his friends from all over the world about his last and most challenging journey. This now is a lasting record of his optimistic, cheerful and inspiring mind, a special addition to the many more technical papers and documents he left behind which form an important basis for some of the key methodologies for oiled wildlife rehabilitation.

Most importantly Jay's philosophy and professional legacy will survive in the minds of wildlife rehabilitators across the world as they apply his high standards to save the lives of hundreds of thousands animals in the decades to come. Our thoughts are with Jay's family, friends and our colleagues at International Bird Rescue on this sad occasion.

Note from Editor - The above was received on June 11 from Saskia Sessions of ISCO Industry Partner, The Sea Alarm Foundation. I also received excellent obituaries from International Bird Rescue (of which Jay Holcomb was Executive Director) and from Kai Williams of The International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council. The above photograph is from the International Bird Rescue obit, which also contains some other excellent photographs. The obits from IBR and IWRC both contain more on Jay Holcomb's life and work. The links are IBR: <http://blog.bird-rescue.org/index.php/2014/06/jay-holcomb-1951-2014/> IWRC: <http://theiwrc.org/archives/3898>

Per his wishes, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a memorial fund established in Holcomb's name benefiting wildlife rescue efforts at International Bird Rescue which has set up a [Jay Holcomb Memorial Fund page here](#).



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 178 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

CHAPTER 178: CONCLUDING REMARKS

As to exhaust-gas regulation, my intended paper for MEPC 67 will go further than I have gone in previous articles of this Column. Thus, it will refer to our knowledge that the life-essential elements, such as sulphur and nitrogen, are incorporated from the environment in the photosynthesis of carbon dioxide which continuously produces/maintains the entire biomass of land and sea; that these biomasses are continuously degraded directly by micro-organisms or indirectly by combustion of their 'fossilised' residues; that consequently the entire biomass continuously recycles all of its carbon, sulphur, nitrogen, etc, through the atmosphere, soil and water as carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides etc; that in addition to their photosynthetic combination with carbon dioxide, nitrogen and oxygen are directly 'fixed' from the atmosphere as nitrogen oxides by the Haber process in the manufacture of nitrate fertilisers, by micro-organisms directly in the natural fertilisation of the soil, and symbiotically in the root nodules of the leguminous plants now known to fertilise the soil in crop rotation.

In the Haber process, a large alternating current is flashed between water cooled copper poles and spread by an intense magnetic field into a disc of 'flame' about 2 metres in diameter through which air (nitrogen and oxygen) is passed to form nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) which in the presence of water oxidises to HNO_3 (nitric acid) in the manufacture of nitrate fertilisers. Previously Nernst had investigated the equilibrium concentrations of $\text{N}_2 + \text{O}_2 \leftrightarrow \text{NO}_2$ mixtures and had shown that 3000°C produces an equilibrium of only 5% NO_2 , this reaction being highly endothermic while its reverse is equally exothermic. Thus, while heat-engine emissions contain concentrations of sulphur and nitrogen oxides according to the presence of sulphur and nitrogen in the fuels, any additional NO_2 is due to the Nernst equilibrium at the cylinder temperature of such engines and all of it dissociates back to the Nernst equilibrium ($\text{N}_2 + \text{O}_2$) at atmospheric temperatures, unless oxidised to HNO_3 in water.

However, nitrogen was being oxidised to nitrogen dioxide by micro-organisms in soil fertilisation long before our seasonal cropping of the land required supplementary nitrate additions in the form of Chile Nitre and/or guano imports, the blockade of which in the 1914-18 war resulted in the Haber process. Thus with nitrogen oxides being life-essential and micro-biological in formation, they cannot be pollutants *per se*.

Again the paper intended for MEPC 67 will note that the atmosphere above 1 acre of global surface is estimated to contain 35,000 tons of N_2 : yet prior to Haber, not a molecule could enter the biological cycle as protein, for example, without bacterial nitrogen-fixation to NO_2 . Thus, while lightning combines nitrogen with hydrogen from water to form NH_3 (ammonia), this is oxidised to the nitrite ion NO_2^- after rain-out, by the genus *Nitrosomonas*; while the *Nitrobacter* oxidises this to the nitrate ion NO_3^- which is essential for higher plants, while the *Azotobacter* transforms atmospheric N_2 to nitrate directly while utilising previously available nitrites and nitrates; while the *Nitrobacteriaceae* transforms NH_3 to nitrate directly; and while the *Rhizobium* symbiotically transforms atmospheric N_2 to nitrates.

As to the cycling of other life-essential elements the paper for MEPC 67 will note that the genus *Nitrosomonas* will grow in a buffered solution containing only ammonium sulphate (2.0 gm), potassium hydrogen sulphate (1.0gm), magnesium sulphate (0.5gm), iron sulphate (0.4gm), sodium chloride (0.4gm) and water (1.0 litre); that nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, magnesium and iron thus recycle through the biomass, atmosphere, rain, soil and sea; and that we cannot know that their anthropogenic emissions are damaging without taking account of their molecular forms and their exposure concentrations to plants, animals and humans.

Again, as to nitrogen in the form of nitrates, the paper for MEPC 67 will note that its contribution to food production ensures a significant percentage of current humans owe their existence to the Haber process; and that any contribution from marine engine emissions is likely to be insignificant in comparison to their natural production by micro-organisms.

Yet again, as to sulphur, the paper for MEPC 67 will note that this is cycled through the atmosphere as hydrogen sulphide and sulphur dioxide by tectonically driven volcanism and through the biomass in such as the essential oils and proteins of onions, garlic, mustard, horseradish, eggs, hair etc; and that its belief-instigated removal from heavy fuel oil to avoid its exhaust-gas emission, raises questions of need and capability for which there are as yet no knowledge-only answers.

As to the belief in exhaust-gas emissions of carbon dioxide being the source of so-called anthropogenic global warming, the paper intended for MEPC 67 will recall the questions put to environmentalist NGOs on 15 November 2012 to which no response has yet been received (c.f. article 179).

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

AFTER THE OIL SPILL - AS OIL DRILLING EXPANDS POLEWARD, THE SEARCH IS ON FOR BETTER WAYS TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE IN THE FACE OF DISASTER.

Editor: The following article is reprinted here courtesy of Ensia, the magazine published by the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota. The author, Elizabeth Devitt produced this article as a participant in the [Ensia Mentor Program](#). Her mentor for the project was Massachusetts environment, science and health journalist [Jennifer Weeks](#).

It was the day after Christmas, and I stood at the edge of McGrath Lake in Ventura County, just north of Los Angeles. This prime bird habitat is tucked among coastal sand dunes bordering a local surf spot, but I wasn't there to catch waves. I was a veterinarian who answered a call to help clean up 84,000 gallons of goop leaking from a storage tank pipe into the lake, surrounding wetlands and the Pacific Ocean.

For the next five days I worked alongside volunteers at the county animal shelter — our spill response outpost — cleaning gobs of goo off ducks, coots and other shorebirds. Despite stacks of ventilating fans, the fumes burned even my breath. Of more than 200 birds found, fewer than 50 survived. The rescued birds barely moved, enduring bath after bath with dishwashing soap to get the oil off. Cleaning up their habitat was even harder.

Even with the best tools available, history shows that responders typically collect less than 15 percent of the oil. Twenty years later, the drill after every spill in water, big or small, is the same: contain the oil and then extract, burn or disperse it. But now we know that too much oil gets left behind, seeping into the environment and the food chain. Studies show that dispersants can be toxic, too. Recognizing that despite our best efforts spills will be with us as long as we use oil, scientists are designing better strategies for cleaning them up.

Herding Oil - When slicks happen, responders first deploy booms — floating obstacles — to surround the spill. Next they use skimmers and vacuums, which act like oversized pool tools, to remove the oil. Sometimes slicks are burned away. More often, cleanup crews use chemical “dispersants” to break up the oil into tiny globules that sink beneath the water's surface. Even with the best tools available, history shows that responders typically collect less than 15 percent of the oil.

Although herders aren't new, the push for Arctic oil exploration sparked a resurgence of interest. It isn't easy to corral an oil spill: Waves, wind and ocean currents all conspire to spread oil faster than we can remove it. So scientists have developed chemical “herders” to round up the oil. Outlining the edges of a spill with these small molecules changes the behavior of the oil droplets, forcing them closer together. The thicker slicks can then be burned.

Although herders aren't new, the push for Arctic oil exploration sparked a resurgence of interest, says Steve Potter, managing director of SL Ross Environmental Research in Canada, a company that's done much of the experimental work. Herders can work around chunks of ice — or reedy marshlands — where booms are hard to place. Now scientists are testing these herders in the field.

Super Sponges - Vacuums suck up as much water as they do oil. But AeroClay — hailed as a “super sponge” when it was trademarked six years ago — sucks up only oil. The mix of water-repelling polymers and clay isn't really a sponge; it's layers of tiny straws, or capillaries, that draw in oil. Innovators envision booms stuffed with AeroClay being dragged through a spill to absorb oil. Once saturated, the oil can be squeezed out and reclaimed.

“Nothing is left behind,” says Yuxin Wang, polymer engineer for Compadre, LLC, who was a student in the lab at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio that engineered the material. In February, AeroClay was licensed for further development by a Texas-based start-up company.

Prickly Solution - When dispersants break up slicks, the oil doesn't disappear. Its ill effects climb up the food chain when bacteria and other plankton eat the bite-size droplets. This year, at the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference, researchers from Temple University in Pennsylvania presented results from a study that found dispersants alone may kill deep sea coral faster than oil or coral treated with oil and dispersant.

Prickly pear cactus - Chemical engineer Norma Alcantar is exploring whether an extract from prickly pear cactus could offer a less-toxic alternative to conventional dispersants used in the wake of an oil spill. Photo by cobalt123 (Flickr/Creative Commons).

Could we grow less toxic dispersants? Norma Alcantar, a chemical engineering faculty member at the University of South Florida, thinks so. Years ago her grandmother taught her that the gummy liquid found inside prickly pear cactus can purify water. “It's a traditional practice in Mexico,” says Alcantar. In water, the mucilage gloms onto bacteria and heavy metals. Alcantar has discovered that it also breaks up oil.

So far, Alcantar has shown that powdered mucilage is as effective as the Corexit dispersant used in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. Next she wants to test the cactus against other types of oil. Persuading oil companies to send samples takes time, and it takes money to rent experimental tank facilities for more testing. But Alcantar is optimistic. In fact, she's already filed for a patent.

Like it or not, oil spills will be part of our future. Efforts like these to find better ways to minimize the damage they do are key to keeping ecosystems as healthy as possible in the face of disasters yet to come. <http://ensia.com/> lizdevitt@sbcglobal.net

Events

IRELAND: ALL-IRELAND OSRO ACCREDITATION SCHEME – STAKEHOLDERS MEETING IN DUBLIN

A meeting of the ISAA All-Ireland Accreditation Scheme Steering Group will take place at the HQ of the Irish Coastguard, Leeson Lane, Dublin at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 26th June 2014

The Notice of Meeting and Agenda has been sent out to all stakeholders on the ISAA mailing list – If you have not received this, please advise the Administrator without delay. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

USA: OSHA MEETING ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

OSHA invites interested parties to participate in an informal stakeholder meeting on emergency response and preparedness. OSHA plans to use the information obtained at the stakeholder meeting as it considers the development of a proposed standard for emergency response and preparedness.

DATES: Date and location for the stakeholder meeting are: July 30, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., in Washington, DC. If needed, a second session will be held July 31, 2014. The deadline to request registration for the meeting is July 2, 2014. [More info](#) [Thanks to George Holliday, ASME EED EHS Newsletter]

UK: SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8.30 am to 6 pm on Thursday 26 June at Radisson BLU, Glasgow. The Scottish Environmental Technology Network once again invites businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs to the only conference dedicated to the environmental and clean technology sector in Scotland. [More info](#) [Registration](#)

NETHERLANDS: INTERSPILL 2015 – CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Interspill 2015 will be held at Amsterdam RAI Convention Centre, The Netherlands, over 24-26 March 2015.

REMINDER – The call for papers closes on 30 July 2014 [More info](#)

UK: 5th MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE – FINAL PROGRAMME RELEASED

London, 3-4 September, 2014. The program now contains further details of each presentation including title and bullet points highlighting the main themes of each speaker. [Download the programme](#)

Publications

UK: MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN - STATUTORY GUIDANCE

The plan summarises procedures the Marine Management Organisation follows in a marine pollution incident.

The plan is under constant review to ensure the best possible response and includes details on • how to get approval to use an oil spill treatment product in English and Welsh waters • environment groups • MMO's out of hours arrangements • resources • legal information • other contingency plans • other marine emergencies • forms and templates for use during and after an incident • approved products • list and details of standing approvals to use treatment products

[More info](#) Download the Plan - [Marine Pollution Contingency Plan](#) PDF, 1.82MB, 49 pages

UK: SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY – THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

Find out more about what causes water pollution and the harm it can do to the environment. [More info](#)

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

[ASME EED EHS Newsletter](#)
[Bow Wave](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[The Essential Hazmat News](#)
[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)
[USA EPA Tech News & Trends](#)
[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)

News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
News from Cedre in Brittany, France
Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater
Contaminated site clean-up information
From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination

Most recent issue
Current issue
May 2014
March 18 issue
June 1 issue
May 2014 issue
April 1-15 2014

Publications (continued)

Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 24 2014
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	June 2014 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	May 2014
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2014
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	June 11 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	June 2014 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2014 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	June 2014 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 2014 issue
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 2014 issue
WMU Newsletter	From the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden	May 2014 issue
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	May 2014 issue

Training

USA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE STRATEGIES & TACTICS TRAINING - AUGUST 26-29, 2014 OHMSETT, LEONARDO, NJ USA

Course Topics:

- Fates & Effects of Spilled Oil
- Oil Skimmer & Containment Boom Selection & Use
- Booming & Recovery Strategies
- Shoreline Characterization
- Shoreline Protection & Cleanup Methods
- Factors Affecting Oil Spill Movement
- Alternative Response Techniques
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Contingency Planning
- And More!

Registration: <http://ohmsett.com/registration.html> Registration deadline is July 29.

FRANCE: 1ST SESSION OF CEDRE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING COURSE - 6TH - 10TH OCTOBER 2014, BREST

This course aims to provide a concrete understanding and practical knowledge of response strategies, techniques and equipment in case of accidental oil pollution at sea, on the shoreline or in rivers.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to select appropriate equipment for the specific risks on their site and to define the operational tactics and procedures required for its deployment, as well as participate in the drafting of a contingency plan.
[More info](#)

SWEDEN: WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY - MARITIME CASUALTY INVESTIGATION, 8 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2014

Created for maritime professionals who are new to accident investigation, this annual course aims to enhance knowledge about the framework of maritime casualty investigation and to add specific expertise on issues such as legal considerations, maritime casualty investigation process, data analysis and the Human Element [More info](#)

Products and services

SCATMAN MOBILE TOOLS TESTED IN RAAHE OIL SPILL

Raaha Oil Spill - The latest oil spill in Finland took place in the town of Raaha, in Northern Finland on the Bothnian Bay on Friday 30 May. About 12 tons of heavy fuel oil leaked from a power plant at a Rautaruukki steel mill, with between three to five tons making its way into the sea. For more information on the spill visit [YLE News](#).

SCATMAN in Action – The SCATMAN Team helped WWF Finland with SCATMAN tools in reporting oil spots on one of the contaminated island called Selkämatala. SCAT mobile data forms were used to report oiled areas with coordinates and possible additional photos with smart phones. Collected data were saved and updated in real-time to SCATMAN server for further analysis.

Products and services (continued)



Study the Raahe Incident Data - Raahe incident data is available for everyone at SCATMAN server. [Click here.](#)

Additional information with photos and explanations on the material is available [here](#). Check also our Facebook pages for photos and latest comments [from here!](#)

Further Information - For the latest update on the Raahe oil spill in Finland go to <http://raahe2014.scatman.fi/> and you can contact Kenneth Kumenius by email (kenneth@scatman.fi) or by phone: (+358 40 579 9996).

Company news

ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, CHUKAR WATERJET EXHIBITING AT OCEANS 14, SEPTEMBER 14-19 IN ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Operable at depths up to 10,000 feet (3000 meters), Chukar's deepwater subsea water jet system has numerous applications for deepwater emergency response operations, salvage operations, and rapid de-mobilization operations. Waterjetting equipment also may be used to provide turbulence in a stream of methanol for hydrate remediation, an application Chukar developed in emergency response to the Gulf oil spill, when the company was asked to rapidly manufacture a system to clear a clogged containment system 5,000 feet (1500 meters) underwater. [More info](#)

PETROLEUM REMEDIATION PRODUCT (PRP) NASA NANOTECHNOLOGY BIOREMEDIATION

A video on this product can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yld5CcKuiaU>

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